

25X1

(63)

Talking Points for the DCI
(2 September 1983)

Current Situation in Lebanon

The Eighth Brigade of the Lebanese Army is reportedly moving out of West Beirut in the direction of predominantly Christian East Beirut. Government officials have stated that the Army intends to establish an "effective presence" in Christian areas and to close down Christian militia barracks. []

25X1

Muslims and Druze are extremely fearful of Christian retaliation following the reported massacres of Christian villagers yesterday. According to press reports, large numbers of Muslims are fleeing the city.

-- Christians throughout East Beirut are participating in a general strike to protest the massacres. []

Druze leader Walid Junblatt told our Ambassador in Damascus today that he was prepared to meet with President Gemayel if Gemayel is alone. Junblatt thinks that Nabih Barri and some members of the National Salvation Front would be willing to join the meeting.

25X1

-- Junblatt, however, said he did not know how Syria would respond to the prospect of such a meeting. []

25X1

25X1

US Embassy Beirut reports that anti-American sentiment is running high in West Beirut, fueled by rumors that US Marines fought along side of Lebanese Army units against the Druze and Muslims.

-- No additional US Marine casualties have been reported, but two Marines were killed earlier this week. []

25X1

The Lebanese Government has urgently requested that the US resupply the Lebanese Army with ammunition as soon as possible. Tank, howitzer, mortar, and other ammunition is involved. []

25X1

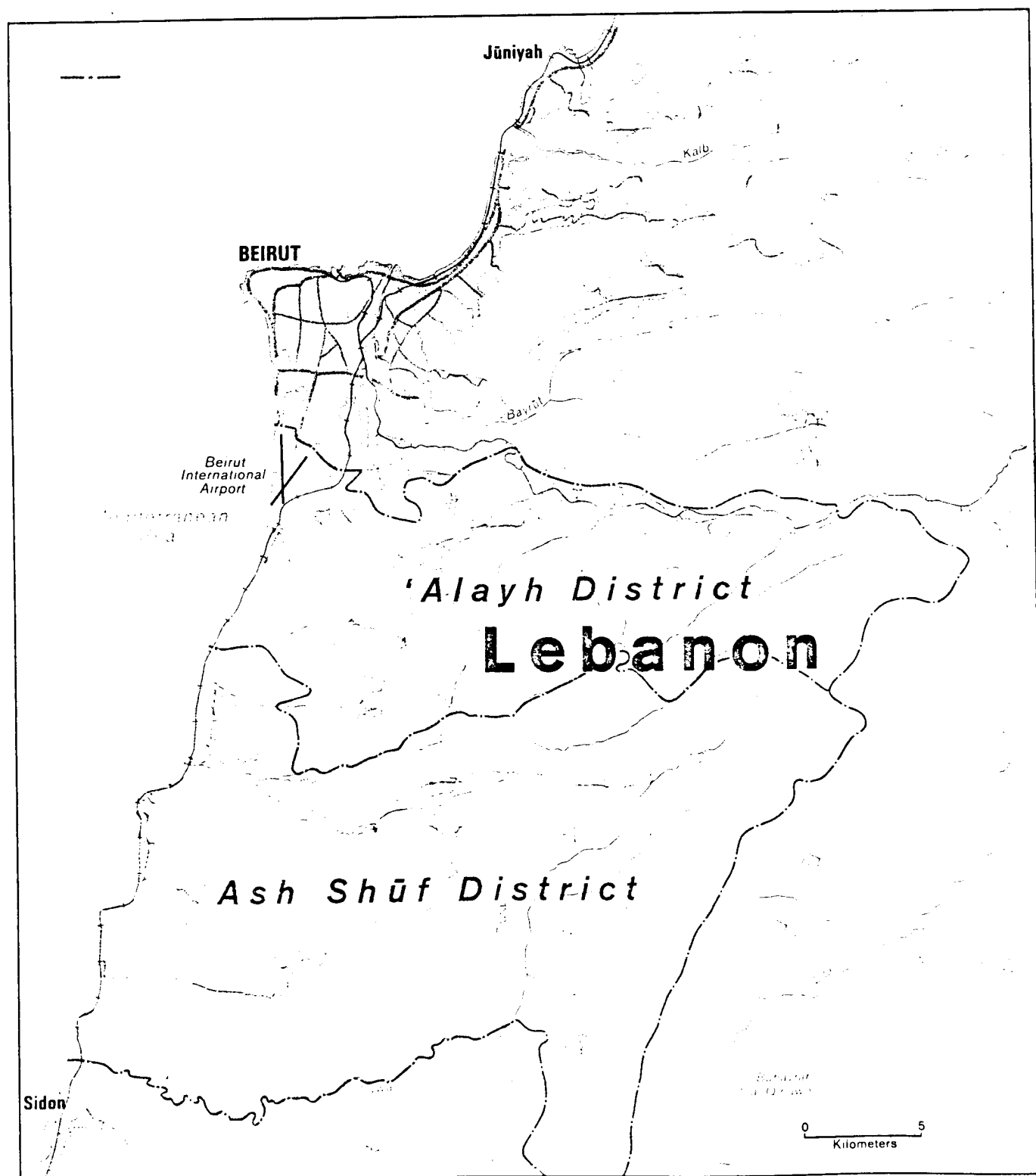
The Beirut press is reporting today that France is willing to hold national reconciliation talks among Lebanese Christian, Muslim, and Druze leaders on the French aircraft carrier Foch, which will soon be stationed off the Lebanese coast. In response to a question from US Embassy Paris, a French Foreign Ministry official confirmed a willingness to use the ship for such talks. []

25X1

NESA M#83-10210

~~SECRET~~

25X1



635025 8-83

SECRET

25X1

Talking Points for the DCI
(2 September 1983)

Prognosis on Lebanon

Prospects for continued factional violence are high. The Army probably will not be able to operate successfully in both West Beirut and the Shuf-Alayh region.

- Most of the Muslims fighters in Beirut apparently eluded the Army sweeps, and many are eager to resume attacks against Army units.
- The Army has still not entered in force the Shia Muslim slums south of the city. If it does, heavy street fighting is again likely, the Druze fighters probably will resume shelling Beirut in support of Shia militias.
- The Druze now are likely to offer even stiffer resistance to the Army deployment into the Shuf-Alayh region.
- The risk of more MNF casualties--particularly US--is high. Druze and Shia fighters believe US played significant role in Lebanese Army operations this week.

25X1

Prospects for resolving confessional problems are poor, and Gemayel's position now depends largely on the Army's performance and cohesion.

- Druze leader Walid Junblatt and Shia spokesman Nabih Barri believe that the government used recent talks to buy time for the Army's offensive.
- Barri and Junblatt's support among their respective groups is high. Many Muslims and Druze believe recent government actions reflect Gemayel's desire to preserve Christian political domination.
- Gemayel's problems with the Phalange Party and the Christian Lebanese Forces militia have probably eased for the time being because his current tough approach suits Phalange interests.

25X1

Army Cohesion

The Lebanese Army appears to be generally intact, but continuing Army moves against Muslim fighters in Beirut and, eventually, in the Shuf region, will further test the loyalties of the Army's Muslims troops.

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

- An unknown number of Shia soldiers reportedly deserted the Army earlier this week and joined the Shia Amal militia.

Muslim troops may desert in large numbers if Army moves in West Beirut and the Shuf-Alayh region remain focused on Muslim and Druze adversaries. 25X1

- Plans to deploy the Army's strongest units--now in Beirut--into the Shuf will encourage Muslim militia attacks on Army units remaining in the capital.
- Druze fighters using guerrilla tactics, probably will put up stiff resistance to the Army's move into the Shuf.

25X1

The survival of the Gemayel government probably depends on the ability of the Lebanese Army to maintain order in West Beirut.

- Army units remaining in West Beirut will have difficulty keeping the lid on the explosive situation in the capital.

25X1

Syrian Intentions

Clashes in the Shuf after the Israelis withdraw would almost certainly prompt greater Syrian involvement. Damascus' mid-term options include:

- providing increased support to the Druze militia;
- pressing the Shia and other pro-Syrian militias in Beirut to stir up fighting in the city to divert LAF units;
- deploying Syrian troops in Druze uniforms in direct support of its allies in the Shuf and Alayh.

25X1

The Syrians will probably use the opposition National Salvation Front to increase political pressure on Gemayel. The Syrians and their Lebanese allies will deny the legitimacy of the current regime and probably will call for new power-sharing arrangements and a new government of political leaders that would be responsive to Syrian interests.

25X1

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

Israeli Intentions

Begin's departure is likely to have little immediate impact on Israel's Lebanon policy.

- There is no indication that Shamir plans any significant departures. He said yesterday that his main goal will be to get Israeli troops out of Lebanon while insuring the security of the north. We expect Arens, for at least the near term, to continue to play the major role in Lebanon policy.
- In the longer term, much will depend on Sharon's influence in the new government. If he is given an influential post, Israeli policy will become more hardline.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

Talking Points for the DCI
(02 September 1983)

The Syrian Role

The Syrians at a minimum have been involved indirectly in the fighting.

25X1

- The massacres of Christians Wednesday night took place in Syrian-controlled territory, but it is unlikely Syrian troops were directly involved.

25X1

Foreign Minister Khaddam claims that Syria's position is to favor national reconciliation in Lebanon, but it is clear that Damascus wants reconciliation on Syrian terms.

- The Syrians are pressing Junblatt and Shia leader Nabih Barri to hold out for sweeping concessions from Gemayel;
- Khaddam told Ambassador Paganelli Thursday that a pre-condition for political talks will be the withdrawal of the LAF from West Beirut and a declaration by Gemayel that he will not use the Army until reconciliation is achieved.

25X1

Damascus sees an opportunity to press for the realization of its goals in Lebanon:

- halting progress toward an extension of government authority which, in the Syrian view, would amount to consolidation of Christian Phalange control over Lebanon;
- abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese Agreement;
- the establishment of a national unity government that would propose constitutional reforms for new power-sharing arrangements, be responsive to Syrian interests, and unwilling to reach an accommodation with Israel.

25X1

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

SUBJECT: Talking Points for the DCI (02 September 1983)

NESA M-83-10210

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDI
- 1 - C/PES
- 4 - CPAS/IMD/CB
- 1 - NIO/NESA
- 1 - NIO/W
- 1 - D/NESA
- 2 - NESA/PPS
- 1 - NESA/AI
- 1 - NESA/AI/I
- 4 - NESA/AI/L

DDI/NESA/L/[REDACTED] (02 Sep 83)

25X1

SECRET